IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Hiroshi IKEDA et al.

Serial No. Unassigned

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Confirmation No.

Filed: October 22, 2001

Examiner:

For:

ROUTE SEARCHING METHOD, TIMING ANALYZING METHOD, WAVEFORM ANALYZING METHOD, ELECTRONIC CIRCUIT SIMULATION APPARATUS, AND

STORAGE MEDIUM THEREFOR

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Before examination of the above-identified application, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the pending claims and ADD new claims in accordance with the following:

22. The method according to claim 20, wherein

said two or more routes satisfying the set condition are synthesized by selecting the largest delay difference or the shortest delay difference by type of delay difference generated as the delay data in the two or more routes.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to improve the form of the specification as originally-filed and to delete multiple dependent claims.

It is respectfully requested that this Preliminary Amendment be entered in the abovereferenced application.

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If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 10/10/0

By: James D./Halsey, Jr. Registration No. 22,729

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims:

22. The method according to claim 20[or 21], wherein said two or more routes satisfying the set condition are synthesized by selecting the largest delay difference or the shortest delay difference by type of delay difference generated as the delay data in the two or more routes.